



SMOKE American Insular

MANILA LONDRES



SACHS'

MONDAY, JULY 14th

BARGAINS THIS WEEK IN

Ladies' Washable Skirts

Following up our announcement of last week that we will make special reductions in different departments of our stock from now on until we move into our new store, ladies will find it to their interest and profit to watch our advertisements and to visit our store. The values we offer and the reductions made are all on NEW GOODS and easily salable at their regular prices. No old stock or broken assortments, but all of the latest cut and materials. The line consists of LINEN, DUCK and COVERT SKIRTS — all handsomely made and the newest styles. See them displayed in our window with prices plainly marked.

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WOOD'S CUBAN VIEWS

HIS STORY OF CONDITIONS
AMONG SUGAR PLANTERS

Laborers Are Preparing to Steal to
Keep Body and Soul Together--
Reduced Acreage Follows
Reciprocity Failure.

Albert Halstead, Washington correspondent for the Brooklyn Standard-Union writes as follows on the Cuban situation under date of June 24:

General Leonard Wood is still devoting much time to supervising his last report as Military Governor of Cuba. It will be a most exhaustive document, covering with great detail and completeness the work of the military government of intervention in Cuba to the very last day of occupation.

In the midst of this work General Wood finds himself the target of partisan assault. As an army officer he has held himself in readiness to reply to any queries or to welcome any investigation by a committee of Congress. The mere fact that no such effort has been made indicates that the opposition is conscious that it can find no solid basis for its criticisms, and that no campaign material can be manufactured out of a formal inquiry.

Perhaps no man feels more keenly, unless it be the President himself, the present failure of securing commercial reciprocity with Cuba through direct legislation than does Gen. Wood. In reply to a question as to the effect of this failure upon industrial, social and political conditions in the island, Gen. Wood said recently:

"In the first place, there will be no 'Black Friday' in Cuba. By that I mean there will be no general and sudden financial collapse. This is because the Cuban banking firms and commercial houses which hold the bulk of the mortgages upon the plantations are solvent, and are able to carry for a considerable period the credits they have extended. The planters themselves are barely able to pay the interest on these loans. Many of these loans were increased last year, because it was necessary to borrow more money to pay for the machinery and labor required for the larger acreage planted in cane, which accounts for the large crop of sugar this year.

"The real sufferers will be the owners of large plantations, and the great mass of the laborers whom they have employed. The first result of low prices of sugar, due to the maintenance of the present customs duties on importations of the United States, will be no new planting of sugar next year. Assuming that cane will continue to be productive for an average of five years, this would result in only a slow and gradual reduction of the total acreage. Reduced acreage means, of course, a smaller crop. It will mean also less employment for labor. That will mean a progressive decrease in the amount of money expended for labor, a decrease in purchasing power, a lessening of importations and the effect of that will be a falling off in customs receipts.

"Thus it becomes apparent that the denial of reciprocity to Cuba is like a two-edged sword—it will cut both ways, striking both the Insular Government through a decrease in its revenues, and the humblest peasant through a decrease of earning capacity. Conditions of disorder in Cuba always depend upon the number of unemployed among the mass of its population. At this very time large numbers of laborers ought to be busy under normal industrial conditions, breaking ground for an increase of the acreage to be planted in cane. Instead of that, it is probable that the acreage will be decreased perhaps 20 per cent below that of this year.

"Advises that I have received from Cuba recently show a disposition among intelligent planters to praise the United States for the splendidly restored condition in which they left the island. But these advisers also say in effect that we have left the island to its ruin. There will now be a progressive increase in the number of the idle and unemployed. For example, one planter writes to me that he has had 500 laborers steadily at work. He now can give employment only to fifty. He reports that the other 450 have either begun to steal or are getting ready to steal in order to keep body and soul together. His testimony is duplicated by many others that conditions will lead inevitably to a gradual increase in lawlessness and petty crimes and eventually to the paralysis of business and the shipment out of the island of a great deal of capital. In short, there will be a steady downward progress toward the conditions that prevailed in

Cuba at the time of the outbreak of the revolution against Spain. But I would emphasize the word 'gradual' as to that downward progress.

"As to the tobacco industry, there is no immediate cause for anxiety. The tobacco in Cuba is so much superior that it can always command a profitable market. This is notably true of manufactured tobacco. There are now made in Cuba 25,000,000 cigars a year. Of these only 50,000,000 are imported into the United States, the rest of the product, aside from domestic consumption, finding a ready market in Europe.

"The most important reform that could be made in our system of customs as to Cuban tobacco would be to levy a straight duty on filler and wrapper. That would do away with great confusion and variations in the collections of these duties. Under present conditions the tobacco crop in the island is controlled almost wholly by big dealers. They are able to reduce the actual tobacco growers to a condition of peonage. The mass of these people are constantly in debt to dealers who thus are always able to buy next year's crop in advance at any price practically dictated by themselves. Even then they can pay for the crop, not in cash, but in supplies of all kinds for which they charge prices yielding them a profit of 40 or 50 per cent."

General Wood declined to be quoted as to an opinion he may hold concerning the report that increasing idleness among the population of Cuba who should be at work, may result in disorder. It is the opinion of other army officers who have served in Cuba the past three years that within the next two or three months there will be multiplying reports of outbreaks of violence in the interior of the island that will make a profound impression upon public opinion in the United States and will illustrate painfully the truth of the claim that the failure to extend reciprocity promptly would result in bloodshed and destruction of property. It is thought, however, that these outbreaks will be only local and spasmodic. Advocates of reciprocity believe that during the coming Congressional campaign appeals will be made to public opinion of the United States, that will have such an effect as to secure next winter, either through legislation or treaty, a far greater reduction of duties upon Cuban imports than the inadequate relief of 20 per cent hitherto proposed. In this prospect, the friends of Cuba are finding some consolation for the delay, but not the ultimate defeat of reciprocity.

This view is in accordance with that of Chairman Babcock, of the Republican Congressional Committee, who is confident that the Democrats will gain no advantage because of the temporary failure of reciprocity. It is expected that the President will make this topic prominent in the address he will deliver next fall in some of the best sugar States.

Lord Roberts has taken Moor Park, near Farnham, Surrey, for a term. As this place is only a few miles from Aldershot, it will be very convenient for the commander-in-chief. The house has some historical interest as being the scene of Dean Swift's first meeting with "Stella," when he was there as secretary to Sir William Temple.

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